Divesting C.B.E.C. and C.B.D.T. of Powers regarding appointment etc.

785. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Finance Ministry to divest the Central Board of Excise and Customs and the Central Board of Direct Taxes of their powers to appoint and transfer senior officers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a move; and

(c) what is the reaction of these Board thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign exchange unearthed in Calcutta

786. SHRI LAL R. ADVANI:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Expres, dated the 7th February, 1988 to the effect that a large sum of foreign exchange was unearthed from the firm of an influential person during raids in Calcutta;

(b) whether it is a fact while the raids were on, orders were given for the search to be stopped; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard, the name of the firm, the reasons for the order to stop searches and the stage of the prosecutions for the offences committed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of this report.

(b) As, no such search as alleged in the news-paper report took place, the question of stopping the search did not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Raid on bookies of Delhi Race Club

787. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that C.B.I. has raided the premises of bookies of Delhi Race Club recently;

(b) if so, what are the names of those bookies and the amount recovered from each of them; and

(c) whether Government propose to cancel their licences as they have cheated Government by not paying the proper taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation has not conducted searches at the premises of bookies of the Delhi Race Club. However, the Income Tax Department has conducted searches at the premises of the following bookies of the Delhi Race Club on 8.2.1988;

1. Shammi Raj Kapoor.
2. Sh. K. K. Nangia & Co
3. Sh. Rajiv Sood.
4. Sh. S. P. Trehan.
5. Sh. B N. Jaitly.
6. M/s. Steel International.
7. Shri J. S Bedi.
8. Sh. S. S. Bhatia.

9. Sh. Davinder Kumar
10. V. Sham & Co
11. Sh. Arun Sehgal
12. Sh. Banwari Lal Jain
13. Sh. B. L. Jain, Meerut
14. Sh. P. L. Jain, Meerut

During the course of these searches, *prima facie* unaccounted assets worth Rs. 77.51 lakhs were seized.

(c) There is no proposal to cancel the licenses on the basis of the searches from the Income Tax Department.

Raid by DRI on Indian Express

788. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a raid was conducted at the premises of the Indian Express (Madurai) Private Limited by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and by the Collector of Customs (Airport) on 11th January, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the Collector of Customs (Airport) has issued a show cause notice to the Company; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Show cause notices issued by the Directorate of Enforcement

789. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number show-cause notices issued by the Directorate of Enforcement during 1987 (January-December) to companies for the violation of FERA, excise and other financial irregularities;

(b) what is the number of adjudication proceedings held during the year 1987;

(c) what is the number of adjudication proceedings pending as on 31st December, 1987; and

(d) what are the names of those companies which have been prosecuted during the year 1987 and the amount recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) During the period from January to December, 1987, the Directorate of Enforcement had initiated adjudication proceedings by issue of Show Cause Notices in 562 cases for violation of the provisions of the FERA. Out of these, 199 cases were adjudicated leaving a pendency of 363 cases. During the same period, no company was prosecuted.

P.M.'s Lakshdweep visit

790. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. VALU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister alongwith five Central Ministers and many senior officials of the Government of India visited Lakshdweep in the last week of December, 1987;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of such a visit; and

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred by Government on this visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) (a) Yes, Sir.